

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

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1. (Previously Presented) A method for creating a rights expression for association with an item of digital content for use in a digital rights management system for controlling use of the item of digital content in accordance with the rights expression, said method comprising:

specifying rights expression information using a computer, said rights expression information indicating a manner of use of an item of digital content, said rights expression information including at least one element, said element having a variable and corresponding value for said variable;

generating a template of said rights expression information using a computing device, including removing said value for said variable from said element;

generating an identification for said template; and

transmitting said identification for said template to a device adapted to situationally determine said variable and enforce said rights expression information based on said variable and said identification for said template,

whereby said rights expression information can be enforced on a device based on said variable and said identification for said template.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said transmitting step comprises:

transmitting one or more variables associated with said identification for said template in a predetermined order and situationally determining untransmitted variables.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said transmitting step comprises:

transmitting one or more variables associated with said identification for said template in a non-predetermined order and situationally determining untransmitted variables.

5. (Previously Presented) A method for creating a rights expression for association with an item for use in a system for controlling use of the item in accordance with the rights expression, said method comprising:

specifying rights expression information indicating a manner of use of an item, said rights expression information including at least one element, said element having a variable and corresponding value for said variable;

generating a template of said rights expression information, including removing said value for said variable from said element;

generating an identification for said template;

transmitting said identification for said template along with machine-interpretable reconstruction instructions to a device, wherein said device is adapted to follow said machine-interpretable reconstruction instructions to determine said variable and enforce said rights expression information based on said variable and said identification for said template;

whereby said rights expression information can be enforced on a device based on said variable and said identification for said template.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 5, wherein said transmitting step comprises:

transmitting one or more variables associated with said identification for said template in a predetermined order and determining untransmitted variables according to said machine-interpretable reconstruction instructions.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 5, wherein said transmitting step comprises:

transmitting one or more variables associated with said identification for said template in a non-predetermined order and determining the untransmitted variables according to said machine-interpretable reconstruction instructions.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
transmitting said identification for said template to a device adapted to follow machine-interpretable reconstruction instructions to determine said variable and enforce said rights expression information based on said variable and said identification for said template.

9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8, wherein said transmitting step comprises:

transmitting one or more variables associated with said identification for said template in a predetermined order, determining the machine-interpretable reconstruction instructions associated with said template, and determining untransmitted variables according to said machine-interpretable reconstruction instructions.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8, wherein said transmitting step comprises:

transmitting one or more variables associated with said identification for said template in a non-predetermined order, determining the machine-interpretable reconstruction instructions associated with said template, and determining the untransmitted variables according to said machine-interpretable reconstruction instructions.

11. (Currently Amended) A system for creating a rights expression for association with an item for use in a system for controlling use of the item in accordance with the rights expression, said system comprising:

a computing device configured to specify means for specifying rights expression information indicating a manner of use of an item, said rights expression information including at least one element, said element having a variable and corresponding value for said variable;

a computing device configured to generate means for generating a template of said rights expression information, including removing said value for said variable from said element;

a computing device configured to generate means for generating an identification for said template; and

a computing device configured to transmit means for transmitting said identification for said template to a device adapted to situationally determine said variable and enforce said rights expression information based on said variable and said identification for said template,

whereby said rights expression information can be enforced on a device based on said variable and said identification for said template.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 11, wherein said computing device configured to transmit is further configured to transmit transmitting means comprises: means for transmitting one or more variables associated with said identification for said template in a predetermined order and situationally determining untransmitted variables.

14. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 11, wherein said computing device configured to transmit is further configured to transmit transmitting means comprises: means for transmitting one or more variables associated with said identification for said template in a non-predetermined order and situationally determining the untransmitted variables.

15. (Currently Amended) A system for creating a rights expression for association with an item for use in a system for controlling use of the item in accordance with the rights expression, said system comprising:

a computing device configured to specify means for specifying rights expression information indicating a manner of use of an item, said rights expression information including at least one element, said element having a variable and corresponding value for said variable;

a computing device configured to generate means for generating a template of said rights expression information, including removing said value for said variable from said element;

a computing device configured to generate means for generating an identification for said template; and

a computing device configured to transmit means for transmitting said identification for said template along with machine-interpretable reconstruction instructions to a device, wherein said device is adapted to follow said machine-interpretable reconstruction instructions to determine said variable and enforce said rights expression information based on said variable and said identification for said template.

whereby said rights expression information can be enforced on a device based on said variable and said identification for said template.

16. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 15, wherein said computing device configured to transmit is further configured to transmit transmitting means comprises: means for transmitting one or more variables associated with said identification for said template in a predetermined order and determining untransmitted variables according to said machine-interpretable reconstruction instructions.

17. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 15, wherein said computing device configured to transmit is further configured to transmit transmitting means comprises: means for transmitting one or more variables associated with said identification for said template in a non-predetermined order and determining the untransmitted variables according to said machine-interpretable reconstruction instructions.

18. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 11, further comprising:

a computing device configured to transmit means for transmitting said identification for said template to a device, wherein said device is adapted to follow machine-interpretable reconstruction instructions to determine said variable and enforce said rights expression information based on said variable and said identification for said template.

19. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 18, wherein said computing device configured to transmit is further configured to transmit transmitting means comprises: means for transmitting one or more variables associated with said identification for said template in a

predetermined order, determining the machine-interpretable reconstruction instructions associated with said template, and determining untransmitted variables according to said machine-interpretable reconstruction instructions.

20. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 18, wherein said computing device configured to transmit is further configured to transmit transmitting means comprises: means for transmitting one or more variables associated with said identification for said template in a non-predetermined order, determining the machine-interpretable reconstruction instructions associated with said template, and determining the untransmitted variables according to said machine-interpretable reconstruction instructions.

21-33. (Canceled)

34. (New) The system of claim 11, wherein two or more of the computing devices may be combined into a single computing device.

35. (New) The system of claim 15, wherein two or more of the computing devices may be combined into a single computing device.